

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the heading beginning at page 1, line 30 as follows:

Summary of the Invention~~Disclosure of Invention~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 10 as follows:

FIG. 22 is a diagram showing an example of ~~Laplacian~~Laplacian images generated by a Laplacian generation unit in the second modification of the above embodiment. (Second modification of the third embodiment)

Please amend the heading beginning at page 9, line 6 as follows:

Detailed Description of the Invention~~Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention~~